

CLASS OF 2008 PREPARES FOR COMMENCEMENT

Arts & Sciences and PGS Combine Graduations for First Time

By Christina Ament

"You should always have to give something in order to gain something," said Sherrie VanArnam, Director of Co-Curricular Programs, in discussing the many changes that will take place in this year's graduation ceremonies.

For the first time, the two Brooklyn schools, Arts and Sciences and Professional and Graduate Studies, will have a joint graduation. For the first time, Arts and Sciences will be awarding eight Masters Degrees in Literacy and Cognition. And, for the first time, commencement exercises will not be held on the SJC mall.

Instead, graduation will take place at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in downtown Brooklyn.

This last change has upset many members of the Class of 2008 as well as many faculty members.

"I think that moving graduation off of the mall takes away a unique characteristic of the campus," said senior John Castaldo. "I would have liked to have graduated off of the mall. It would have been a nice way to say goodbye," he added.

And yet, there are some advantages to graduating at BAM. "Coming out of our development toward the college, this was an important moment, the right moment to combine graduations of the two schools for the Brooklyn campus," said Sherrie VanArnam. "Combining both A & S and PGS makes the statement that this campus, that all students and staff, are one," she added.

In addition to the one school idea, having the ceremony at BAM will be "an impressive place to graduate

from," said VanArnam. It also eliminates the fear of adverse weather, which has plagued several graduations in recent years. "Now guests will be able to view the ceremony in air-conditioned comfort," she added.

BAM was also chosen as the venue for the event because of its close proximity to the college and because it can seat 1900 people. It is also one of the most historic buildings in the heart of Brooklyn.

"Graduation at BAM will be very beautiful," said Dean of Students Susan Hudec.

Despite the change of venue and the combining of the two schools, there are certain traditions that will still take place during graduation. The faculty, students and alumni will still process into the auditorium and take their seats. This will be followed by a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next, an honorary degree will be presented to the keynote speaker, followed by the valedictory address. This year, there will be two valedictions, one from A & S and one from PGS.

Then, degrees will be awarded, followed by the announcement of departmental awards and memberships in honor societies.

A total of 265 graduates are expected to participate in the ceremony, 106 of which are members of A & S, the balance coming from PGS.

The graduates of the Class of 2008 will be sorely missed, according to VanArnam. "The Class of 2008 had an energy that was extraordinary that

ran through student government, clubs and athletics," she said. "There were many students who stepped up and took on the challenge and made changes happen," she added.

For example, VanArnam noted some of the changes that occurred in the area of the arts on campus. John Castaldo started the SJC Jazz Ensemble. Andrea Rosado started the SJC Choral Society, and there were many other revitalizing changes including the rebirth of the school newspaper, yearbook and literary magazine. Adam Mace also made a significant impact on student government by rewriting the constitution this year as SGA president.

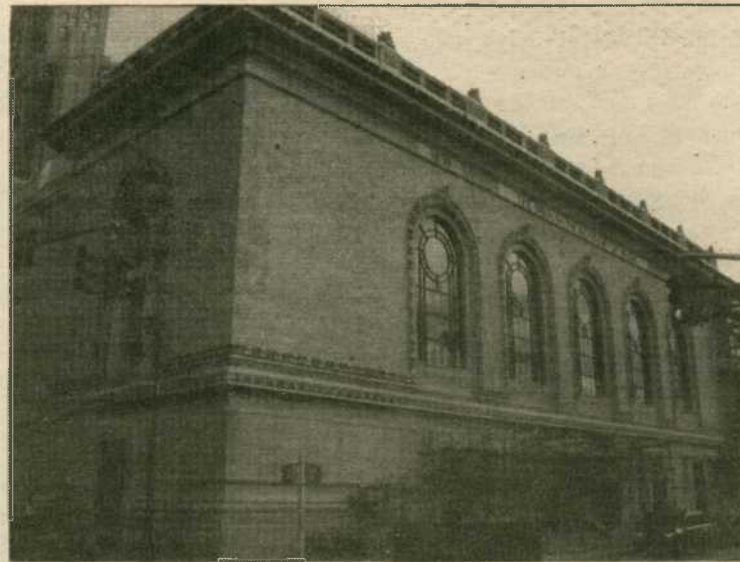
"When a class graduates, there is a loss of spirit, enthusiasm and familiarity," said VanArnam. "However, this sense of loss turns into a feeling of hope and pride with what these students have accomplished," she added.

According to VanArnam, the students are the products that a college creates. "All of us look at our products with feelings of accomplishment—something we did together," she said.

She also noted that everyone who comes here takes a piece of the school with them when they leave—and leaves a bit of themselves behind as a legacy.

"Whatever your experience was, we know we had an influence," said VanArnam.

The date is set: Friday, May 30, 2008 at 11 AM at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. One last gathering—one last moment together, and the college careers of the Class of 2008 come to a close.



Brooklyn Academy of Music, SJC's new graduation home

S. George Honored With Plaque

By Nina Zito

S. George Aquin O'Connor, the late president of St. Joseph's College, who passed away on November 15, 2007, will be honored with a plaque to be dedicated on Senior Night on May 9, 2008.

The idea for the commemorative plaque was outgoing SGA president Adam Mace's. "Nothing on the campus was named for S. George, so I felt it would be appropriate if we could remember her in this way," said Mace.

He then brought the idea to current SJC president S. Elizabeth Hill, who gave her complete endorsement to the plan.

Each year on Senior Night, the graduating class presents a gift to the school. The plaque for S. George will be this year's gift and will bear the inscription, "Gift of the Class of 2008."

"I don't know what gifts have been given by earlier classes, but I think this one is especially appropri-

ate and will be a permanent feature of our campus," said senior Robert J. Marriello.

The plaque will be placed on the mall on a wall of a building still to be determined. Since much of the mall will be devoted to a new field house for the athletic department, it was important that a location be found that would give the plaque high visibility.

"I think the idea of this memorial plaque is a great way to remember all the things that S. George did for the college," said senior Svetlana Medvedeva. "I wasn't here when she was president, but from what we all have been told, much of St. Joseph's greatness can be attributed to her efforts," she added.

Though only one part of the events of Senior Night, the dedication of the memorial plaque will be a moving and significant tribute to a person who has made such a difference in the lives of so many.

Senior Week Kicks Off in May

Full Slate of Events Scheduled

By Ashley Pucciarelli

For the first time, the members of the Class of 2008 will be treated to an entire week of senior-oriented activities.

Starting on Monday, May 5th, the Class of 2008 will be ushered towards graduation with an entire slate of events designed to bring the class together for fun, relaxation, friendship and reminiscences of four years together at SJC.

Senior Week kicks off on May 5th with Spa Day hosted by Frank LaTerra, Director of Counseling at St. Joseph's. From 4-6 PM, seniors will

be able to have massages and a yoga instructor will be on hand from 4:30 PM-6 PM for some much-needed relaxation before seniors begin their last round of finals.

Tuesday, May 13th is another big day in Senior Week. From 1 PM to 4 PM, SJC will conduct its first Field day, with events such as flag football and basketball planned. Then, at 5:30 PM, students will leave by train for Shea Stadium where they will attend a Mets game.

One of the major events of the week is the annual Spring Dinner

Dance, to be held this year at Roma Catering in Howard Beach, Queens at 160-05 Crossbay Boulevard. The dinner dance begins at 7:30 PM with a cocktail hour and the dance runs until 12:30 AM with full dinner service, dancing and photographs as part of the evening. The cost of the event is \$50 for graduating seniors and \$65 for guests.

Friday, May 16th finds the seniors headed to Six Flags Great Escape for an entire day and night of thrill rides and fun. The tickets are \$30 for seniors and that includes deluxe coach

transportation to and from the park. The buses will be leaving SJC in the morning to ensure a full day's activities at the park.

The big night for seniors is Friday, May 9th, which is the annual Senior Night. At Senior Night, a full dinner will be served on the mall complete with cocktails and desserts. Parents and guests of seniors will be in attendance in Tuohy Hall to see the announcement of award winners as well as membership into "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

Seniors will also receive favors specifically chosen to honor the Class of 2008.

In the past, Senior Night marked

the occasion when *Footprints*, SJC's yearbook, was distributed to seniors. But since this year's book covers the entire year, including all spring events, the book will be distributed in September or early October at an alumni association event.

"As Senior Class Representative, I hope that the entire class will take part in one or more of the events that we have planned for Senior Week," said Christina Ament. "For many of us, it will be the last time we all are together and I want us to enjoy the time we have left," she added.

The events are on the calendar; now, the seniors can look forward to a huge week of events as they say farewell to SJC and their college days.

EDITORIALS

ONE SET OF STANDARDS – FOR EVERYONE

Try to imagine what would happen to a student who was caught dead to rights plagiarizing work on an exam or in a term paper. At a large number of colleges and universities in America, this is a 'hanging offense.' That is, there are no second chances; expulsion is the usual punishment.

And rightly so. Plagiarism is the worst academic crime that can be committed. It is theft of intellectual property so dire, that under the United States code it is a violation of both criminal and civil laws and international covenants.

What, then, should happen to a university professor found guilty of the same offense? After all, one could argue that students are both young and foolish and apt to make grave errors—that's why they are students. But professors who ought to know better—and preach academic integrity at every opportunity?

Consider the case of Columbia University Teachers College Professor Madonna Constantine. Complaints were lodged against Constantine by two former students and a university colleague who claimed that she had pirated their work and published it under her own name. An independent law firm then conducted an 18 month investigation of the charges—and found that they were true. In fact, they found that Constantine had plagiarized 36 times in a five year period in professional education journals.

Teachers College President Susan Fuhrman labeled Constantine a "serial cheater"—and then did nothing about it. The college refused to divulge the nature of the punishment levied against Professor Constantine, but it did not include firing.

And so we have a typical case of double standards in the world of academe, and we have to wonder why. Let us be clear on one point: a school either has standards or it doesn't. There can be no half-measures. Either it believe in integrity, or its hard-won reputation as a premier institute of learning is a sham.

Professor Constantine, an African-American, was at the center of a racial controversy when a noose was hung on her office door in October of 2007. Predictably, she then played the race card stating that the plagiarism charges were racially motivated. It might have worked, except for the fact that Constantine's department chairperson, Suniya Luthar, stated, "The students who came with the complaints—most...are ethnic minorities, and a number of them are African-Americans." So much for the race card.

No, this has nothing to do with race. It has everything to do with the fact that a tenured professor has committed an egregious offense that has brought disgrace to her university. At the very least, Teacher's College should have demanded that she resign. Failing that, they simply should have fired her, because they certainly had the proof of her offenses.

This establishes a terrible precedent at Teachers College. One can see a student, caught in the same net of plagiarism, claiming as a defense, "What's good for the goose is good for the gander."

Only Columbia Teachers College would argue with that logic.

A NOTABLE YEAR

This has been an outstanding academic year for St. Joseph's College. The editors and staff of *The Spirit* would like to congratulate the Office of Student Life and Director of Co-Curricular Programs Sherrie VanArman and her staff for providing the students of the college with a huge variety of activities and programs that kept us busy from September through May. We believe the SGA and the Campus Activities Board have done an outstanding service to the school in bringing representatives of the arts, entertainment, journalism and politics to our campus to enlighten and inform us on almost a daily basis.

We also congratulate Athletic Director Frank Carbone on the success of St. Joseph's teams this year and salute all our athletes for bringing home more honors to the college.

It is with singular anticipation that we look forward to September and all that awaits us. Have a great summer vacation!

**Got Something to say?
Write to Us!
Or Better Still – Write FOR Us!
Join "The Spirit Staff"**



Farewell to the Class of 2008

THE SPIRIT

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VERBILIZATIONS

By Jaclyn Verbil

OLYMPIC PROTESTS – IT'S ABOUT THE ATHLETES, STUPID!

So it seems the Olympic torch has made its way yet again through the good ole' US of A! It landed in San Francisco on April 9—you know, the city that still thinks it's 1968 and that the 'peace' movement is an ongoing thing. That must explain why the kindly citizenry threatened to attack the Olympic flame with fire extinguishers!

This year's summer Olympics are scheduled to kick off on August 8 in Beijing, China. But since China has recently forcibly suppressed protests and cries for freedom in Tibet, the world (San Francisco included) has reacted with outrage.

When I read that our own President may not be participating in the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, I was very troubled and just had to learn more about it. Word on the street was that President Bush would follow in the footsteps of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who will not attend in protest of the treatment of Buddhist monks and other Tibetans who chafe under the lash of Communist China.

Supporters of this form of protest, which is often referred to as 'quiet diplomacy,' believe that by absenting themselves from the games, a strong and loud message will be sent to China's president, Hu Jintao, that their conduct towards Tibet is unacceptable to the world community.

In a recent interview with ABC News, President Bush stated, "I

don't view the Olympics as a political event."

As it happens, I agree with the President. Politics has no place in the swimming pools and on the soccer fields of the summer Olympics.

Think about it: for many athletes, being able to attend the Olympics in a dream of a lifetime. Heck, it's even better than visiting Disneyworld or Dorney Park (without the funnel cakes, of course).

These athletes have trained for their entire lives and dedicated themselves towards this single goal: to be an Olympic athlete. What does any of this have to do with politics?

Just being able to watch the Olympics from the comfort of my cozy couch and air-conditioned living room is a privilege in itself. I enjoy watching the athletes, and I vicariously share in the pride of their victories and the sadness of their defeats.

I believe support for our athletes should start right at the top—from the President on down. Skipping out on the games would show that America is more concerned with its foreign affairs than with its own citizen-athletes.

I honestly do not believe that this proposed 'silent diplomacy' will be an effective tool. Oh, it's been tried before. The USA boycotted the summer games in the USSR after that nation invaded Afghanistan. Then, the USSR returned the favor by boycotting the 1982 summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Neither boycott made any change in either nations' foreign policy.

And generally speaking, political statements earn nothing but scorn from the world when they are practiced at the Olympics. Witness what happened in Mexico City in 1968 when two American athletes earned world-wide condemnation for raising the Black Power salute during the awards ceremony. Or consider the tragedy of Munich in 1972, when political radicals turned the Olympic village into a slaughterhouse by murdering Israeli athletes.

The president of China surely would notice if President Bush absented himself, I'll give you that much. But anyone who thinks this will cause them to relent in Tibet misjudges that nation's totalitarian regime utterly.

Hu Jintao isn't exactly from the big listeners to world opinion, and an insult of this magnitude could possibly provoke a wave of Chinese nationalism in response.

As of now, the White House claims that President Bush will be attending the opening ceremonies; however, no specific details of the President's schedule will be released until much later, because of security considerations.

So the torch travels from city to city, country to country, and continent to continent. We can be pretty certain that the spirit of that Olympic flame burns brightly in the hearts of every single athlete who will participate in the summer games of 2008—even if it has been doused in the national capitals of some of the world's nations.

**The Editors and Staff of
"The Spirit"
Thank all of our
Loyal Readers for their
Support in 2007-2008**

Ramona Candy Conducts African Dance Workshop

Renowned Choreographer Brings Drums and Dance to SJC

By Deana Elsayed

St. Joseph's College always tries to keep up with trendy cultural activities and the African Dance Workshop that came to campus of February 28th is an example of an event that appealed to a wide segment of the student body.

The event, hosted by Ramona Candy, was a little piece of African culture that gave participants and viewers alike an idea of just how much beauty and creativity African culture has to offer.

Ramona Candy is a renowned choreographer, teacher, artist and singer. She has been singing and painting since she was a child and she graduated with a degree in Art from City College of New York.

She is also one of the charter members of a theater group called the "Charles Moore Dance Theater" (Dances and Drums of Africa). She has danced with them for over twenty years and has continued her dance career by teaching and choreographing all over the United States and the Caribbean.

As her skills also include painting, she hosted the Visual Art Gallery that was held in the Alumni Room in

Tuohy Hall from January 23 to February 14 of this year.

Ms. Candy describes herself as a "choreographer on canvas" and says that her work is greatly influenced by her upbringing as well as her Haitian/Caribbean background.

The African Dance Workshop combined rigorous physical activity with exposure to various aspects of African culture. The music was provided by drums and tambourines which were both pre-recorded and played by Ms. Candy, who demonstrated the proper playing technique for participants.

The eighteen students who actively participated in the workshop quickly got the sense of rhythm Ms. Candy was trying to achieve.

She began the class with muscle-stretching exercises, a typical beginning for a dance class to get the dancers limber. She then discussed the art of isolation, which is a form of African dance that isolates one part of the body to move, leaving the rest to remain immobile. She led the class in several of these exercises, isolating the torso and buttocks.

Following the warmup and isola-

tion exercises, she began to choreograph to the passionate and uplifting beat of the African drums. Ms. Candy had the students perform these sections in pairs across the floor, giving them the chance to show off their new African dance moves.

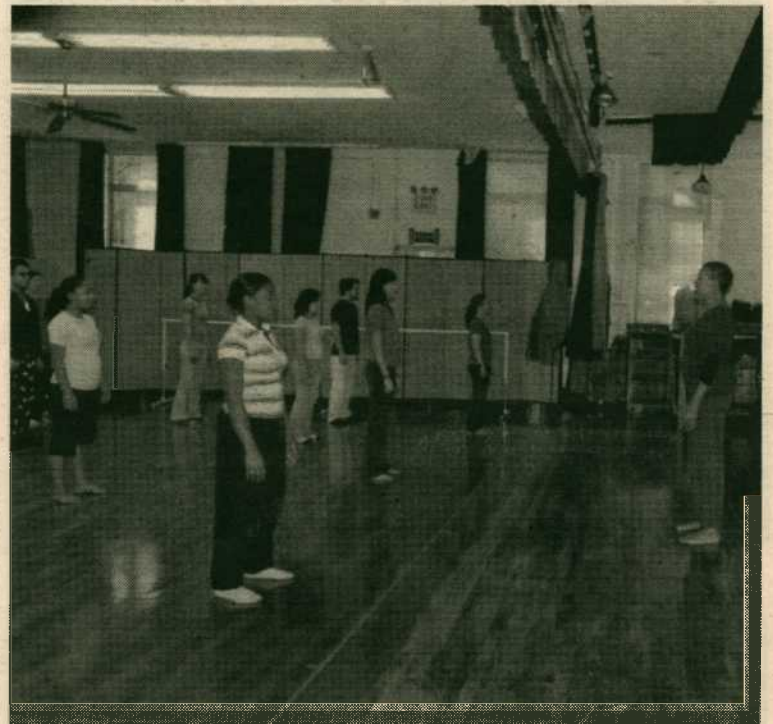
Once the event was completed, the winded but enlightened students were both pleased and impressed with the workshop.

"It was a really different and amazing experience," said Christina Contessa. "I never thought I would be taking a workshop like this, but I am very glad I did," she added.

Similar opinions were held by the male participants. "It was really cool! You could have more fun with it as opposed to things like ballet that has really precise muscle movement," said Anthony Catalonotti.

The workshop was funded and sponsored by Co-Curricular Programs and the Dance Club. The diversity of the activities that the two groups plan is a reflection of the diversity found on the Brooklyn campus.

Future activities will highlight other cultures and ethnicities represented by the students of the college.



Dance Club members at African Dance Workshop

Farewell From the Chief

Editor of The Spirit to Graduate

By Christina Ament

For those of you who do not know me, I am Christina Ament, and I have been the editor-in-chief of *The Spirit* for all four of my college years.

From the very beginning, *The Spirit* was off to a good start with our extremely supportive Director of Student Publications, Dr. Howard Weiner, who now, as then, takes great pride in his consistently good work.

As I prepare for graduation, I just wanted to publicly thank him and acknowledge him for all the work that he has done and for presenting me with the opportunity of being part of something I had never done before.

I also wanted to thank all of the staff that have worked with me throughout the years. John, RJ, Mark—you all have written such entertaining and creative columns—and you have stuck with the paper as long as I have. For that, I am grateful to have had you on the team.

I also wanted to thank my dear friend Lana, our Photography Editor, for taking pictures for us from almost the first moment she arrived on campus.

Keep up with your photography! You are so talented!

I remember our freshman year when it was just you, me and Adam walking around campus trying to interview people and get their headshots for the paper. It seems like only yesterday.

And though he will not read this, I want to particularly thank Gurjit Singh, who graduated last year, because he was always so willing,

dedicated, and dependable, and because he so unselfishly served *The Spirit* in every way possible.

To the new editors of *The Spirit*: Kasia Topczeska, Nina Zito, Jackie Verbil and Bala Huseinovic—I know you will take our paper far and achieve great things.

Finally, my thanks go to you, the loyal readers of *The Spirit*, who have supported the paper through these last four years. You were our reason for existing, and on behalf of the entire staff, I hope we served you well.

Thanks again to all of you—and goodbye!



Senior Christina Ament, the editor-in-chief of *The Spirit* for her entire four years at St. Joseph's College, prepares to turn over the reins to her three underclassmen successors.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

All right, folks, Here's one more chance to win that \$25 Gift Card to Best Buy before the term ends. Just answer these questions and be the first to bring the answers to Room 607 St. Angela Hall to win. This month's contest—Classical Music.

1. Why do we remember Bartolomeo Cristofori?
2. Who are "The Six"?
3. Who conducted the premier of Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring"?
4. Who was the first composer to use the words 'sonata,' 'piano' and 'forte' in a piece of music?
5. What is the highest member of the saxophone family?
6. Name any two composers of the Mannheim School.
7. What musical work is usually regarded as the first work of 'Romanticism'?
8. Whose works feature the adventures of the great hero, Lemminkäinen?
9. In what American composition do we find variations on the Shaker theme, "Simple Gifts"?
10. What is the nickname of Schubert's Symphony No. 9 in C Major?
11. What is the first chair violinist in an orchestra known as?
12. What is the enharmonic tone of Fb?
13. What does the mnemonic device "Farmer Bailey Eats Apples Daily—Good Choice!" represent?
14. With what instrument is Pablo Casals associated?
15. In what musical genres will we find 'voices' and 'episodes'?
16. "Drum Roll," "Surprise," "Clock." What do they all have in common?



Eye on Fashion

By Samantha Labady

DRESS TO GET THAT JOB!

Spring is here—and so is the end of the semester! For some, this means long days at the beach and baring skin. But for others, especially our graduating seniors, it is the season for job interviews.

Everyone knows that resumes are an essential piece when going on an interview, as well as great interaction with the interviewer. However, no one should ever overlook the importance of proper dress for an interview.

Before you get the opportunity to speak to the interviewer, he or she sees you first and sizes you up. That first impression is the most important and the most lasting. Believe it or not, the first judgement made by an interviewer is based on what you are wearing and how you present yourself. This means that it is crucial to dress appropriately and professionally, even if the place of work does not require that type of clothing for work.

Men should always wear a solid color suit—and stick to basic colors on the dark side: navy blue, black or dark grey are some common colors for suits. A subtle pinstripe in the fabric is also an elegant touch—not the gangster pinstripes that Frank Nitti wore on *The Untouchables*.

And don't forget to get a nice haircut! And always shave; grunge might work for rock stars, but not for Wall Street.

Now, for the ladies, a suit is definitely a plus, but not as essential as it would be for the men. The color scheme is the same as for the men. Keep to dark colors. If you decide to wear a skirt, short is not the way to go. It should be long enough so that you can sit comfortably. Remember, you are not Sharon Stone in

Basic Instinct! The blouse also should be coordinated with the suit and shoes should also be conservative. That means no six inch heels. And pantyhose should be a neutral color.

Keep jewelry limited and conservative. No dangling earrings or hoops big enough for a parrot to perch upon. Don't load your arms up with bracelets—you are not early Madonna. Keep it basic—maybe pearls or studs.

Hair must be professional: no over the top hairstyles! And pink streaks might get you into a rock club—but not into the board room of a *Fortune 500* company.

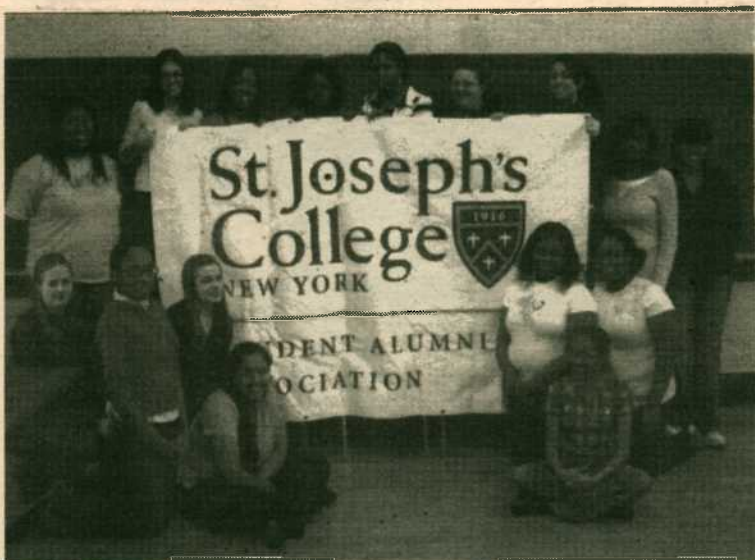
Nails should be clean and well manicured—and lose the black nail polish unless you are auditioning to be the successor to Elvira, Queen of the Night. I know fire engine reds and other crazy colors are in—but do you want the job? Good—then lose the bizarro-world hues.

Now, getting away from clothing and makeup, always give a firm handshake. If your interviewer is a woman, you grasp her fingertips, not her whole hand in a grip that would make Hulk Hogan wince.

Also, try to remember this: it is far better to get to an interview 30 minutes early than 10 minutes late. Punctuality is one thing an interviewer will look for; they have many things to do in a day—and they can't waste time waiting on you. If you are going to be late—call ahead, and you'd still better have a pretty good reason.

Remember: if you arrive at the exact time of the interview—you're late! If you are there 10 minutes early—you are on time!

So follow these tips, get out there—and get that job!



Student Alumni Association members



The Culture Vulture

By Nick Souleotis

SOME SUMMER READING – BIOGRAPHY STYLE

With the rapid approach of the summer vacation, I've got some book titles for you that you can take to the beach for a good read.

Anyone who is a fan of "The Sopranos" will enjoy Lorraine Bracco's memoir entitled, *On the Couch*. Bracco, best known as Dr. Jennifer Melfi in the iconic HBO series, as well as the wife of mobster Henry Hill in the blockbuster hit *Goodfellas*, discusses in detail many personal facets of her life.

Included in these revelations are her bouts with severe depression, her failed marriages and her constant struggle to become the best mother possible to her children.

Because of the very candid nature of the book, Bracco's autobiography has become a national bestseller, possibly because for fans of Hollywood "dirt," she openly discusses her professional success and private turbulence.

In addition to her two marriages, she had a long and stormy relationship with actor Harvey Keitel. Upon the collapse of that relationship, she discusses being left with two children and a great deal of wisdom which she shares with her readers.

Bracco has finally (with the help of psychotherapy) come to terms with serious money problems and a disastrous relationship that led to a widely-publicized child custody battle. Here, she reveals the details of her struggle and the treatment that helped her triumph.

As an author, Lorraine Bracco's delivery is intimate, warm, humorous and honest. The beautiful and positive ending make it accessible to any reader interested in the complexities of being a star, a mother and a partner all at once.

Any fans of Lorraine Bracco will find the book a great addition to their personal library.

Another Hollywood star who doesn't hesitate to reveal personal

and professional details is by Oscar and Tony winning actress, Ellen Burstyn. Her book, entitled *Lessons in Becoming Myself*, tells a story that is easily worthy of winding up on the silver screen as a film.

This memoir is complete with abusive parents, high school tragedy, show business triumph, reversals of fortune and a spunky female protagonist in search of professional and spiritual fulfillment.

Ellen Burstyn begins with hazy memories of her Detroit childhood, which includes a turbulent relationship with her mother and stepfather, Lou.

She then moves from the scare of her brother's near-fatal struggle with pneumonia when she was only three years old to the distressing illegal abortion that she had at the age of eighteen.

Her career started off a few years later on Broadway, launching her on a demanding path to movie stardom with a great number of failed romances along the way.

She discusses having a mentally ill husband who would stalk her for years and her search around the globe for religion.

The book concludes with the happy story of Stone House, her home in upstate New York for over eleven years. This part of her story covers only a few pages, but she makes its touching tale echo in the hearts and minds of her readers.

So there you have it: two female stars, who despite fame and fortune, have problems very similar to the average American, and who therefore touch a chord that resonates for all readers.

Both these books are worthy of your time. In fact, since it will be summer soon—make sure you read something on your spare time.

And I will see you all in September with my first "Culture Vulture" column of the new year.

Student Alumni Association Visits Soup Kitchen

New Group Already Making Mark in Community

By Jaclyn Verbil

While you are catching up on sleep watching cartoons while still in your pajamas on Friday, May 16th, the dedicated members of SJC's Student Alumni Association (SAA) will be giving back something to the community and volunteering at a local soup kitchen.

When it came to choosing a project and location for a service project, SAA members unanimously agreed that a local soup kitchen would be an ideal choice. Samantha Saines, moderator of the SAA and Alumni Relations Officer, jumped onto her computer and thanks to Google, located a non-profit organization known as CHIPS, which she contacted and volunteered the SAA's services.

CHIPS is located in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn and the organization operates a soup kitchen, providing food for less fortunate individuals including new mothers, the homeless and the needy.

The CHIPS soup kitchen serves approximately 70,000 meals annually. The organization also offers other valuable services to the commu-

nity such as a women's shelter for prenatal and post-natal homeless mothers and their infants, as well as a daily clothing drive.

On May 16, the members of the SAA will be in charge of running the soup kitchen from 9 AM to 3 PM. They will travel by public transportation to the event and will work in shifts of six students at a time. Members will help out by preparing and serving lunch and also by sorting clothing donations.

As an Alumni Relations Officer, Ms. Saines is especially enthused about the fact that the SAA is made up of current SJC students who she is certain will become vital alumni upon their graduation.

"This is an extremely important event for us," said Ms. Saines. "All the members have volunteered and everyone is in the spirit of giving. We are very excited to be doing this," she added.

Though the SAA is a relatively new addition to campus life, they have already had successes and they have big plans for the future.

The group has run campus

events such as "Home for the Holidays," held for Student Government members in December, and the Beta Upsilon Delta reunion in April. They have also participated in freshman orientation and in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

"Joining the SAA is a very worthwhile experience which offers students the opportunity to connect and network with former SJC students," said Ms. Saines.

Membership is open to all students, but unlike other campus clubs and organizations, there are several prerequisites for joining. Students must complete an application form, obtain a letter of recommendation from a professor, coach or other member of the SJC community, and then sit for a brief interview.

"The interview offers valuable experience for students so they will realize what it will be like in the job world once they graduate," says Ms. Saines.

The SAA meets on alternate Tuesdays in Room 216 of Tuohy Hall, where they are already planning major events for the fall semester.

Spring Carnival Brings Cheer and Release to Finals Season

By Nina Zito

The smell of freshly popped popcorn and sugary cotton candy wafted through the air—a sure sign that it was time for Spring Carnival!

With the school year rapidly approaching its end and finals week on the horizon, what better way was there to finish the term than with rides, games, prizes, food and friends?

The Campus Activities Board held its annual Spring Carnival on Wednesday, April 30th from 12-2 PM on the mall in front of the Dillon Child Study Center.

"CAB sat together and picked some of the attractions from different companies that offer carnival games and rides," said Christian Jocelyn, head of CAB.

Funded by the SGA budget and from the Student Activities Fee, Spring Carnival is a highlight of the spring term because it helps relieve the tension of oncoming exams and last minute completion of term papers.

Some of the games that were on hand this year were the Bungee Run and the Gladiator Dome.

"Everyone was hyped about the bungee run because students always request we include it at every Spring Carnival," said Jocelyn.

Evodio's Place, the SJC cafeteria, provided all the burgers and beverages that the students could eat, and members of SGA manned the popcorn machine and served it up piping hot.

"We decided to include some new attractions this year," said Jocelyn. "Feedback is always good; whether positive or negative, and it can help us make future carnivals more spontane-

ous," he added.

For freshmen, the Spring Carnival was a new experience, but one which many had heard about and looked forward to with great anticipation.

"I was very excited for our Spring Carnival because I thought it would be a great opportunity for the entire school to get a chance to interact with one another in a relaxed and enjoyable state," said freshman Jenna DeFillippo. "And it was," she added. In fact, one of the avowed purposes of the Spring Carnival was to have students let off steam from a full year's rigorous study.

"The Spring Carnival is a long-standing tradition at St. Joseph's College and I think it will be around as long as there is a St. Joe's," said Jocelyn.

Added to the Spring Carnival two

years ago was the annual Strawberry Fest. Fresh strawberries chocolate dipped, strawberry shortcake and pastries, smoothies—strawberries were in great evidence on the mall at Carnival.

Students were also photographed and were able to get pictures of themselves with friends at the end of the event.

"Every year there is always something new at Carnival that makes it that much more enticing," said junior Alyssa DeVivo. "I couldn't wait to see what CAB had thought of this year. My friends and I have had so much fun in the past and I couldn't wait until this year's!" she added.

Yes, Spring Carnival was a big deal for St. Joe's, as it is every year. As the festive atmosphere faded, the reality of finals began to rear its head.



Students dig in at Spring Carnival

Juniors 'Ring' in their Final Year at SJC

Ring Night Marks Threshold of Senior Year

By Amy Tirado

Junior year can be both challenging and exciting for many students. Having completed three years as an undergraduate, graduation is on the near horizon and the students can sense they are close to their goal.

One way in which St. Joseph's College commemorates this milestone for the Junior Class is the Junior Class Night and Ring Ceremony, which was held on Thursday, March 13th at 7 PM in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

This ceremony is one of SJC's oldest campus traditions and both students and staff members look forward to the annual celebration.

"St. Joseph's has increasingly recognized the importance of tradition," said Sherrie VanArnam, Director of Co-Curricular programs. "It is good to have something for Juniors to mark that they have gotten this far and to celebrate their many achievements," she added.

The theme chose for the evening was, "From Blueprints to Footprints," said Junior Class Representative Anthony Catalanotti, and the

auditorium was decorated in hues of blue and silver. The evening began with a musical performance by Dr. Michael Hanophy of the Biology Department, who sang "In My Life," by John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Following that moving lyric, Anthony Catalanotti welcomed his classmates, their parents and guests to the evening.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Professor E. Jane Beckwith, the Associate Chairperson of the Art Department.

Rings were then distributed by Sherrie VanArnam and her assistant, Jaime Vacca-Hoefner. Catalanotti said of the ring ceremony, "This year, to make it more inclusive, we invited the juniors that did not order rings to bring any ring they wanted, which they would then receive along with their classmates who had purchased class rings."

Personal reflections on their first three years at St. Joseph's College were offered by Laura Ferentino, Madeline Hogan and Christian Jocelyn.

A dance interlude to the tune, "I

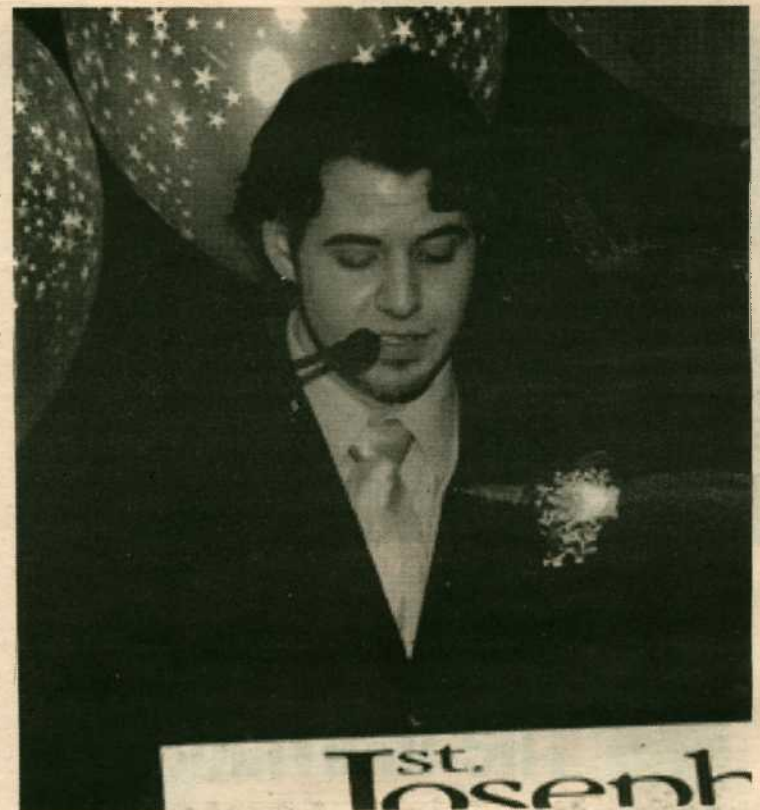
Just Can't Give Up Now" was performed by Carelle Cherebin, Leandra Derico and Samanta Labady, all members of the Class of 2009.

Juniors and their guests were served a full dinner including dessert and beverages and class members lingered for hours reveling in the moment—realizing that they would soon head into their final year as college students.

The event was planned by the Office of Student Life and a committee of juniors along with the Office of Alumni Relations, Lynn Portas and Stacey Temple all contributed to various parts of the evening.

"We had a fantastic committee that worked with us and we were confident that this would turn out to be a night full of 'footprints,'" said Catalanotti.

Following closing remarks by Dean of Students Dr. Susan Hudec and Junior Class Representative Leandra Derico, the evening came to a close. But members of the Class of 2009 knew that there would be many more special nights like this one once they embarked upon their Senior year.



Anthony Catalanotti greets Ring Night guests

Pictures Worth Thousand of Words

SJU Photography Professors Depict Soul of Cuba and Italy

By Lori Bastien

St. Joseph's College is fortunate to have on its faculty individuals who have distinguished themselves in a wide variety of endeavors. Amongst that distinguished number are two professors who also happen to be artists: Jane Beckwith and Rick Miller. Both teach the art of photography, Professor Beckwith on the Brooklyn campus and Professor Miller in Patchogue.

In addition to teaching photography, both professors are artists in that genre as was in evidence at their recent show entitled "Visual Identities: Photographs from Italy & Cuba," which made its debut in the Alumni Room on the Brooklyn campus on April 8th, 2008.

Professor Miller took trips to Cuba in 2001 and 2004 during which he documented the life styles of Cuban citizens.

Before going to the island nation, he spent a great deal of time researching the country and its people in an attempt to learn as much as he could about various aspects of Cuban culture even before he arrived.

Professor Miller describes his style as "spontaneous," that is, he prefers

candid rather than posed pictures so that he can capture the soul of the people the way they really are.

"I like to take pictures that respond to the moment and that have some historical context or meaning," said Professor Miller.

He only uses a film camera and he shoots only in black and white. He developed and printed all of his photographs that appear in the gallery show.

"I attempt to capture the rhythms and textures, the spontaneity and surrounding surprise, the individuality and public convergence of daily life," said Miller.

Professor Beckwith used a different photographic technique on her journey through the farmlands of Italy.

She used only digital photography as opposed to film and her work is printed in color.

Her travels took her to such locales as Venice, Norcia Alta in Umbria, Pergo near Cortona and Florence.

Her artistic eye took in such varied subjects as market boats in Venice, a cloister in the monastery of San Antonio Abate, still lives of old fiaschi, wine bottles wrapped in

woven straw, details of a Last Supper from a predella, the base of an altarpiece that usually has decorated panels, and even views of bee hives in a convent being tended by the Mother Superior.

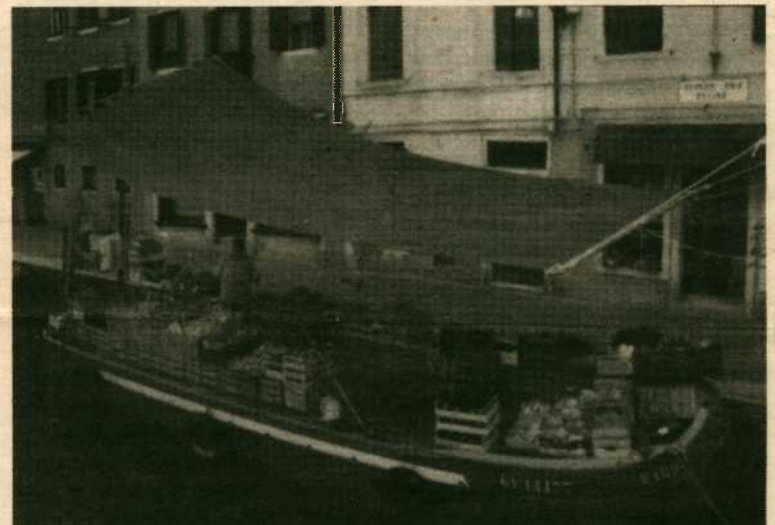
The Market Boat is an example of an everyday subject that caught Professor Beckwith's eye. The varied colors of the produce against the backdrop of colored buildings made for an interesting photographic composition. It also highlighted the fact that in Venice, so much of life actually takes place on the canals.

In Professor Miller's photograph of three old men sitting on a planter at the base of some trees, he captures the low-key, almost somnolent atmosphere of a Cuban town.

Professor Miller is an Assistant Professor of Art and he holds an M.F.A. degree from Long Island University, C.W. Post campus.

Professor Beckwith holds an M.F.A. degree from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York.

The displays of photographs are mounted and hung on the walls of the Alumni Room for all to enjoy. They will remain in place until the end of the spring semester.



Jane Beckwith's photograph of a market boat as it gently rocks on a Venetian canal. Though there are large regular markets in the city, the market boats allow shoppers the luxury of buying produce conveniently right outside their homes without making an extra trip (photo second from top right).

Three aging Cubanos sit together discussing current events? Politics? Economics? Almost their entire lives were spent under Fidel Castro. Now, in Professor Miller's photo, they seem content to spend their days in chat. The black and white photo reflects the barrenness of the small town (photo right third from top).

Though the kitchen seems quite modern, in Jane Beckwith's photo, an Italian woman rolls dough the old fashioned way—on a marble stone, using a very thin rolling pin. The picture captures the intensity with which the woman attempts to achieve just the right dimensions of the dough (photo bottom right).



Some of the award winners at the Leadership Brunch



The Individualist

By Michael Labeit

CAPITALISM ISN'T NEOLIBERALISM

Many terms and phrases have been used by those who dislike and misunderstand the free-market. Terms like imperialism, fascism, and exploitation have all been *allegedly* synonymous with the market. The latest alias for capitalism is neoliberalism, and the connection is no less non-existent.

Capitalism is the socio-economic system where all means of production are owned by private individuals or groups of private individuals and where all pricing and distribution of goods and resources is done by the market.

The market, as economist Murray Rothbard notes, "is a highly complex, interacting latticework of exchanges."

An exchange is a double transfer of goods and/or services between parties. A *laissez-faire* of free-market is a market where all forms of physical coercion and involuntary force such as government intervention are absent.

This is based on the idea that markets work best when physical aggression is outlawed because *individual rights* or freedoms of action can only be exercised under an environment of non-aggression.

Neoliberalism, as many political scientists have described it in action, can neither coherently nor logically be capitalism. Neoliberalism is a socio-economic system where most means of production are owned by private individuals or groups of individuals, but allocation involves thorough government intervention and collaboration in the market which is, by definition, *coercive* because it is never voluntary. No precise, undisputed definition of neoliberalism exists, but neoliberalism has come to be inextricably tied to what *these* several institutions do: the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

These institutions are highly

political and interventionist. According to Ron Paul, "The real purpose of the IMF is to channel tax dollars to politically-connected companies. The huge multinational banks and corporations in particular love the IMF, as both used IMF funds—taxpayer funds—to bail themselves out from billions in losses after the Asian financial crisis. Big corporations obtain lucrative contracts for a wide variety of construction projects funded with IMF loans. It's a familiar game in Washington, where corporate welfare is disguised as compassion for the poor."

Taxation, corporate welfare and bailouts are all governmental wealth redistributions, not market activities.

According to Bill Walker, "The 1994 Cato Institute book, *Perpetuating Poverty*, found that in 1992 the US Congress placed only 3 percent of its World Bank contribution on the budget. The other 97 percent was in 'callable capital pledges,' i.e., illegal, unconstitutional, off-the-books debt. Most of the World Bank's money comes from the sale of bonds, backed by these off-the-books callable pledges."

"Congressional contributions" are tax dollars, pure and simple.

Again Congressman Paul writes, "In reality, the WTO is the third leg of the globalists' plan for a one-world, centrally-managed economic system. The intention behind the creation of the WTO was to have a third institution to handle the trade side of international economic cooperation, joining two institutions created by Bretton Woods, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund."

Free-trade does not require government involvement, only government recognition of rights. It is intellectual carelessness that fools us into believing that governmental creations are simultaneously free-market institutions.

Student Leaders Honored

3rd Annual Leadership Brunch Pays Tribute to Activity Stalwarts

By Christina Ament

Someone once said, "Leaders are the ones who keep faith with the past, keep step with the present and keep the promise to posterity." But where will the leaders of the future come from?

Anyone who attended the Third Annual Leadership Brunch on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Bay Ridge Manor in Brooklyn, would have seen many future leaders in evidence.

Leaders from twenty-four clubs and organizations on campus from the Art Club to Students Joined Through Christ were recognized for their excellence, as well as members of the student government, Campus Activities Board and student publications.

The moderators, coaches and directors of the various campus activities were asked to select up to two students who they felt demonstrated superior leadership skills during the school year. Then, the moderators obtained awards for their choices that were appropriate to each specific activity.

Special individual awards were also presented to students who displayed key leadership qualities in diverse areas. For instance, senior

Adam Mace received the Future Alumni Leadership Award, Annamaria Ciorciari received the Leadership in Athletics Award, and Nina Zito, a freshman, received the Emerging Leader Award.

"I was honored to receive the Emerging Leader Award because it showed me how my efforts had been recognized by the faculty and staff of St. Joseph's, even though I am only a freshman," said Miss Zito.

Some awards were presented to innovators of activities on campus. Senior John Castaldo, the founder of the SJC Jazz Ensemble, received an award on behalf of that group.

"I personally enjoyed honoring John as someone who accomplished a lot at St. Joseph's," said senior Mike Multari, who also received a Leadership in the Arts Award for his dedication to the jazz ensemble and his participation in the arts during his four years of college.

The Club of the Year Award was presented to the Campus Ministry and Outreach Club for their philanthropic efforts on behalf of the school and the community.

The theme for this year's

luncheon was "Essential Piece" which was symbolized by a puzzle piece on all award certificates, programs, and tables in the catering hall. The theme referred to the idea that all students who were invited to the lunch were the essential pieces to their clubs and organizations, and the individuals most responsible for the success of the activities sponsored by those clubs.

As president of SGA, Adam Mace revealed in his speech that the *real* essential piece to the success of campus activities is Sherrie VanArnam, the Director of Co-Curricular Programs at SJC. He noted Sherrie's thirty year dedication to the college and he thanked her for her sincerity in wanting to see each SJC student succeed. He then presented her with a congratulatory bouquet of flowers as a commemoration of the occasion.

"I think that an event like this is very inspirational and motivating," said Kasia Topczewska, newly selected editor-in-chief of both the newspaper and the yearbook. "It makes me want to go out and achieve great things for myself, for student publications, and for the college," she added.

Health and Wellness Fair Encourages Good Habits

By Tara Vafiadou

It is almost impossible to pick up a newspaper or magazine without reading something about an issue involving health. It could be obesity, the dangers of smoking, eating disorders and even the alarming rate of heart disease in America.

College students are not exempt from any of these conditions and destructive forms of behavior, and so on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, the Office of Counseling and Career Development in conjunction with the Office of Co-Curricular Programs and the Athletic Department, hosted a Health and Wellness Fair in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

At the fair, students had an opportunity to meet representatives from a wide variety of organizations that promote awareness on such topics as proper nutrition, physical education, mental health and drug and alcohol awareness.

"The fair was highly informative and it was something that we wouldn't do on our own, so it is a good idea that St. Joseph's College brings it here for us," said Shasta Spicer.

Among the many organizations that were present were representatives from Long Island Hospital, the Brooklyn Social Therapy Group, New York Sports Club, The Door: A Center for Alternatives, SUNY Downstate Medical Center for Smoking Cessation, Safe Horizon and the American Cancer Society.

Also involved in the fair were SJC's Nursing Department and the

Campus Activities Board, each of which also set up tables at the Health and Wellness Fair.

Integral in the planning of the event was SJC's Coordinator of On-Campus Programs, Rhomesia Ramkellowan. She said of the fair, "It was great to be a part of the health fair because it was such a good opportunity to bring awareness to our students about health and wellness issues."

Students who attended were eager to take advantage of the blood pressure screenings, the body fat assessments and the free massages. Some even received free anti-smoking patches to help them kick the habit.

"I think far too many students on

this campus smoke," said freshman Nina Zito. "If they would have come to the health fair and gotten some of this information, maybe they would be eager to stop."

There were giveaways such as water bottles that had lists of ways to stay healthy printed on them, coupons for choosing healthy snacks, and there was even a raffle to win tickets to a Mets game.

Following the common hour event, all who attended were treated to a healthy lunch in the Alumni Room which consisted of salads and fruits.

Free and accessible health information is a plus for all students, and the reason for the success of the Health and Wellness Fair.



Safe Horizons provided information on domestic violence at the fair

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What was the best thing that happened to you this year at St. Joseph's College?



Seeing more students become involved with student activities was the best thing that happened for me this year.

—Mike Barthelemy



Having the opportunity to go to Italy during the Spring Break was easily the best thing that happened to me.

—Anthony Catalanotti



My best thing was being in the Winter Jazz Ensemble Concert.

—Joseph O'Connor



Finally graduating! What could be a better thing than that?

—Afrodite Konstandakis



Winning the conference championship with friends and the birth of my niece were the best things.

—Larry Fawcett



Going on an adventure in haunted locations throughout Long Island and ending up in Patchogue.

—Christian Branch



Going to Washington D.C. over Spring Break was the best thing for me this year.

—Khuslon Khadka



Becoming president of the Hispanic Awareness Club was the best thing that happened to me.

—Christopher Cosme



For me, getting back on the Royal Steppers step team was the best thing that happened.

—Regina Normil



On Spring Break I went on a cruise to Mexico. That was the best thing that happened to me.

—Alex Vargas



Being given a second chance to retake a course so I could graduate in May was the best for me.

—Yolanda McDonald



Making new friends in my first year at St. Joseph's was the best thing that happened to me.

—Laura Gilbert

Alumni Spotlight

Chris Burke Making His Mark in Admissions

By Tara Vafiadou

Have you ever wondered how much effort goes into scouting and recruiting new students and managing admissions into St. Joseph's College? If so, Chris Burke would be the go-to person to find out the details.

Chris Burke is a graduate of the Class of 2007 of St. Joseph's College. As an undergraduate, he was extremely active on campus, as president of SGA, senate leader, member of Chapel Players and as a student involved with a host of other activities.

Now, he leads a busy and active life in the Admissions Office as an Assistant to the Vice President of Enrollment Management.

What exactly does this role entail? Burke works closely with the people in the Admissions Office and he looks for ways to attract new students to the college.

One of the major perks of being hired for his position is that he gets to meet prospective students and talk to them one-on-one about the great things that SJC has to offer them. This type of social role fits his outgoing personality and requires much of the same social skill that he learned by being president of SGA in his senior year at SJC.

"I feel that I have a great deal of knowledge and personal experience to offer a prospective student," said Burke. "St. Joseph's is a very special place and I have great memories from my four years here," he added.

Having spent his undergraduate career at St. Joseph's, he was delighted to be hired by the college and return to the fold, this time as a paid employee.

Chris Burke graduated in June of 2007 as a Computer Information Systems major. From the time he was a freshman, his dream was to work with computers. The idea of introducing people to technology and helping them understand what technology could do for them is what attracted him to this field.

"The dream has not changed," said Burke. "I am still amazed by new technologies and that only makes the dream even bigger," he added.

Despite the fact that he is currently offering his services and expertise to the college as a returning alumnus in the Admissions Office, he is still concentrating on making his dream a reality.

He is currently applying to graduate school and hopes to attend Brooklyn College's Graduate Program for Computer Science. Nor does the dream stop with a Master's degree. He hopes to earn a PhD in the field of Computer Science one day.

Chris Burke notes that there is one thing that stands out about St. Joseph's College, and that is, it appeals to a wide variety of students. The college encourages students to become involved from the day they arrive on campus.

"I loved being able to be a part of many different clubs and organizations during my time at St. Joseph's,"

said Burke. "I was able to do things that I enjoyed right here on campus and those activities helped me develop as an individual," he added.

He tries to convey that sense of enthusiasm to every high school student he speaks to about attending St. Joseph's College.

Successful undergraduate, successful employee—and soon, a successful graduate student. Chris Burke has made his mark in the past, and will continue to do so in the future.



Christopher Burke '07



MUSICAL NOTES

By John Castaldo

SOME CLASSICAL GEMS – AND A GOODBYE

And so I come to you with my final music column for *The Spirit* after being a part of the paper for my entire college career. It's sad, but I've enjoyed every moment of bringing the world of music that interests me to our many readers. It's been a great run and I am grateful that I had this opportunity.

In my final column, I would like to do something a little different. Usually, I write about the jazz, pop and rock world. But this time, I want to show you I'm not just a one-trick pony and talk about the world of classical music.

On March 30th, the renowned Shanghai Quartet was performing at BargeMusic.

For those of you who are unaware of the splendors of BargeMusic, it is an organization that presents classical music to the public at a relatively low price. In addition, the music is performed on a beautiful barge that is docked in the East River close to the Brooklyn Bridge.

As the barge floats gracefully on the river, the music sails with equal grace through your senses.

BargeMusic was founded by violinist and violist Olga Bloom in 1976. Mrs. Bloom oversaw the renovation of the barge, which dates back to 1899, and she did it on her own, thus founding a great venue for concerts—a floating concert hall.

Indeed, since 1976 BargeMusic has flourished, featuring many world-class musicians and ensembles.

The Shanghai Quartet is one such group of artists. They began their set with a lively performance of the Beethoven String Quartet No. 5 in A Major, Opus 18, No. 5. The Opus 18 is regarded as one of the greatest collections of string quartet music extant.

The work energized the audience and set the tone for the afternoon. However, in some parts, the Beethoven came across as rather stiff and, dare I say, uninspired.

The main attraction of the performance was the world premiere of a piece by Daniel Ott entitled, "Blue

Water for Violin, Piano and String Quartet." The piece was divided into seven movements, but the movements were played continuously, much like the five movements of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral), which are performed without pause.

The theme of the work is clearly meant to show the flow of nature. The movements are intertwined and flow like water, without any breaks. The title "Blue Water" is symbolic of perhaps new life or, from a psychological standpoint, unresolved issues. Aptly enough, "Blue Water" made its debut on the water. Thus, the music underscored the moment.

The composition was at once, both relaxing and yet commanding of the audience's attention.

The piece featured two superb performers: Doris Stevenson on Piano and Mark Peskanov on Violin. In particular, Peskanov's violin stood distinct from the two violins of the quartet. His ability to play with great clarity, even in the highest registers, was impressive. His phrasing was impeccable and the vibrato of his instrument mimicked the movement of the waves on the ocean.

The finale of the concert was the renowned String Quartet No. 14 in D Minor, by Franz Schubert, subtitled "Death and the Maiden."

Flowery and majestic, tragic and passionate, the Schubert proved a bittersweet coda to a marvelous afternoon of music.

And the best part was that I did not even have to leave Brooklyn to see a great show. I plan on attending a performance on the top deck of the BargeMusic vessel while the weather is warm.

Remember, culture is all around us. Hear it. See it. Take advantage of it and broaden your artistic horizons!

Well, my friends, that's me away. I am pleased to turn over my writing chores to Malcolm Johnson who I hope will entertain you and continue to bring St. Joseph's College the latest news in the world of music.

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS

SPORTS SCENES



SJC's new Varsity Men's Volleyball Team



Jennifer Safi on a strong forehand return



Jon Matzelle buckets two for the Bears



Women's Cross Country Team steps it out



SJC's new Varsity Baseball Team

Rough Season for Lady Bear Softballers

By Przemyslaw Kudla

Some seasons are just plain tougher than others, and this was the primary lesson for the Lady Bears Softball Team in 2008.

There were no illusions entering the season; one look at the roster was enough to enable pundits to predict that it would be a tough year. There was only one senior on the entire roster, Christina Ament, who was entering her fourth year on the team. On the other hand, there were seven freshman straight out of high school with no intercollegiate experience.

Even the presence of five juniors, most of whom had limited playing experience in 2007, could not compensate for the inexperience up and down the lineup.

The team finished with a record of 9-20 overall, and though they were 3-3 in HVWAC conference play, it could not overshadow the team's poor showing in road games, where they had a record of 1-8.

Things started off ominously for the team in spring training, which was held this year in Phoenix, Arizona. An 11 game losing streak set the tone

for the season, with some of the games winding up as blowouts such as a 22-3 loss to Lawrence University, a 17-1 loss to the University of Chicago and a 14-1 loss to Taylor University.

Following spring training, the Lady Bears copped two victories in a row, but this mini-streak was followed immediately by another string of 7 losses in a row.

Despite the team's struggles, there were individual bright spots which foreshadow an improved squad for next year.

Leading the team with a .322 batting average was Theresa Mendez. She also led the team in hits with 28 and had a .402 slugging percentage. A junior, Mendez had an impressive 14 stolen bases for 14 attempts and will be an outfield mainstay for her senior year.

Also an offensive power player was third sacker Allison Kavanagh who batted .311 and had an on-base percentage of .417. Tara Gleason at .299 and Jackie Marinello at .294 rounded out the offensive core for the Lady Bears.

To compete against tough conference and non-conference competition next year, the Lady Bears will have to have more help in pitching.

The burden of the pitching duties for 2008 fell to sophomore Julian Basmagy, who finished with a 7-19 record. She appeared in 26 games as a starter and pitched a total of 126.1 innings, while notching 130 strikeouts. She also allowed the opponents 67 stolen bases.

The Lady Bears will have to use the off season to acquire depth at pitching through recruiting from area high schools.

"This isn't the way I wanted to finish my playing career," said Christina Ament, "but we had fun and I know the new players will really grow into their games for next season. I think things look very promising for 2009," she added.

The experience gained by the 7 freshmen will be invaluable for the next campaign. Having played together for a year and learned each other's styles, the Lady Bears hope to return to the top of conference competition in 2009.

Baseball Team Starts Initial Season

By Nina Zito

A Riddle: What has 12 freshmen, 5 juniors and 1 senior? Answer: the brand new SJC Bears Baseball Team.

Beginning its first year of NCAA Division III varsity play, the Bears, uniformed, equipped and eager, entered the season hoping to make an immediate mark for the team and school.

But, the reality of tough varsity competition proved to be too much for the youthful squad of raw recruits and the team's record was an indication that it will take time to build a competitive organization.

At an overall record of 2-15, there is obviously much seasoning that the squad takes away from the 2008 season. The Bears did manage to win 2 of 4 home games, but their road record was an unenviable 0-12.

Having allowed as many as 24 runs in a game against SUNY Purchase, and 21 and 22 against NYU and CSI respectively, the pitching and defense will have to improve dramatically by next season.

Freshman Robert Villante was an offensive standout in his first year of varsity play. His .418 batting average

and 23 hits were both tops on the team, with his RBI production of 13 second only to fellow freshman Jon Matzelle, who had 18 ribbies.

Matzelle also batted .345 and was joined by Thomas Gutekunst at .316 as the heavy-hitting members of the Bears' lineup.

The team's pitching was particularly problematical in their first year of play. Three of the five starters, Marzelle, Mykelie Cortez and Jacob Tobin, were freshmen, with James Ciago and Juan Cruz both juniors.

The ERAs of the hurlers ranged from 6.14 for Cruz to 9.64 for Ciago—far too many runs allowed on the collegiate level to garner a lot of victories.

Matzelle led the staff with 20 K's followed by Cruz with 18. Matzelle also led the team at 32.1 innings pitched.

Back on the offensive side, Robert Villante led the Bears with 33 total bases, 23 hits and 10 doubles.

The idea for a baseball team at St. Joseph's had been kicking around for the better part of five years. Finally, there were enough interested players to field a squad and Athletic Director

Frank Carbone saw to it that the dream became a reality.

He brought on board Head Coach John Torres and Assistant Coach Robert Diaz to handle the day to day chores of forming the team.

Coach Torres was previously the Head Coach of Manhattan Community College (2003-2005), leading BMCC to 15 victories in 2005 and a berth in the Region XV (NJCAA) semi-finals for the first time in the school's history. Prior to his coaching at BMCC, Torres coached at New Jersey City University and the Sussex Skyhawks, an independent professional ball club.

Assistant Coach Robert Diaz has had experience as a player at SUNY Farmingdale and the University of Miami and has coached at C.W. Post and Borough of Manhattan Community College.

The record notwithstanding, the members of the Baseball Team played with enthusiasm and learned much in this, their inaugural season. Each player expressed optimism and eagerness to begin training for the spring 2009 varsity season.

Calling All Athletes!
Interested in Teams at SJC?
Come to the Athletic office in Tuohy Hall